

Learning English with CBC Calgary Weekly Newscast October 13th, 2014

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



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News story #1 The Cost of a Snowstorm

What happens when the snow falls too early and all of the leaves are still on the trees? The answer is, the trees can't hold the weight of the snow, and they get destroyed. This first story talks about the amount of damage last month's snowstorm caused in Calgary, and the amount of money it will cost to fix what was destroyed.

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) snowstorm	a) trim cut short
	2) damaged	b) blizzard blast
	3) perhaps	c) help aid
	4) prune	d) trouble huge mess
	5) related	e) ruined wrecked
	6) disaster	f) connected associated
	7) assistance	g) maybe possibly

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

re-plant – to plant a tree again because the trees that used to be there were destroyed

final costs – the last part of the cost – after this, there should be no more costs added on

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file and write your answers to these questions in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. How much has Calgary already spent as a result of this snowstorm?
2. How many trees got damaged in this snowstorm?
3. What two things will be done to get the trees back to the way they used to be in Calgary?
4. How long will it take to restore the trees in Calgary?
5. What will the total cost related to this storm be for Calgary?
6. Who will Calgary be talking to about getting disaster assistance?

Discussion Question: How does weather affect people? List all the different types of weather – include nice weather and awful weather. How do people prepare for and deal with these different types of weather?

News story #2 More Schools on the Way

Have you heard of the school shortage in Calgary? This second news story is about Premier Jim Prentice's plan to solve the problem with his school building program.

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

premier	political leader of the province
announced	to say something so that many people can hear
upgrade	to improve something and make it newer, or more modern
estimate	to guess based on evidence available
phase	part or stage of a plan
roll out	to start or begin executing a plan
program	a plan of action
history	past events

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

School building program – the plan to build many schools

1. Now that our plan is ready, we can begin the _____ of it.
2. The queen _____ the upcoming birth of her next grandchild to the people of England.
3. This looks expensive; could you give us an _____ of what the cost will be?
4. We are now on the second _____ of the school building plan, and will be moving onto the third one soon.
5. Do you know the _____ of your country, or just what has happened recently?
6. The _____ was elected by the people of Alberta.
7. The school building _____ will not only be building new schools, but also _____ some of the older ones.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Prentice announced that there will be _____.	a) 55 new schools built. b) 55 schools to be upgraded.
2. The cost of this project could be up to _____.	a) two million dollars. b) two billion dollars.
3. The government is now in the _____ of the program.	a) third phase b) third place
4. This project began _____.	a) about a year ago. b) three years ago.
5. This school building program is _____ Alberta has ever had.	a) the biggest one b) one of the biggest ones

Retell: Try to retell this story to a partner. Explain what is happening, what it will cost and how long the program has been going. Be careful with all of the numbers!

News story #3 Ebola Screenings

What can airports do to make sure sick people don't bring diseases into the country? In this story we will learn what Canadian airports are doing to check if people have been in contact with Ebola, the deadly disease.

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. screen	a) to say something
	2. deadly	b) going to in a straight line, or by the shortest way
	3. virus	c) to have lots of education and experience with something
	4. direct	d) influenced by something
	5. affected	e) likely to cause death
	6. quarantine	f) an extremely small and infectious agent that lives and multiplies in living things
	7. detect	g) expected or required to do something
	8. state (v)	h) strict isolation of people, in order to stop diseases from spreading
	9. supposed to	i) to discover, or find something
	10. highly trained	j) to select or reject a group by looking at it closely

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Quarantine Act - An Act (Canadian law), which aims at preventing the introduction and spread of human disease in the country

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True or False - *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Canada has already started Ebola screenings at sixteen airports around the country.
2. ____ There will be equipment used to read peoples body temperatures.
3. ____ Rona Ambrose supports the use of the temperature screens.
4. ____ Ebola is likely to come to Canada because there are direct flights from West Africa to Canada.
5. ____ The Quarantine officers at the airports are still getting to know the equipment that will be used for these screenings.
6. ____ The Quarantine Act states that people must tell the people at the country's borders if they are feeling ill.

Discussion:

How can the global community stop the spread of diseases like Ebola? You heard about one way airports can work together on this problem, but what are some other solutions?

Language Focus: Linking

One reason why non-native speakers have a hard time understanding and pronouncing English is fluent speakers of English link, or join, words together when they are speaking naturally. Today's lesson will focus on linking.

Rule: When a word that ends with a consonant is followed by a word that begins with a vowel (a,e,i,o,u) in the same thought group, link the sounds of the consonant and vowel.

E.g. North America would link the last sound to the first sound, which is a vowel, making it sound like Nor thamerica



A native English speaker recorded the CBC news stories that you listened to today. However, in order to help you understand the news, she is speaking slower than she normally would. This means that not all of words that would normally be linked, are.

Your task today will be to determine which words in the samples below should be linked, according to our rule. Then, you will listen to that part of the news and decide which words are actually linked. *See Appendix for Answers.*

Go to the first news story and listen to this example:

Any of the words from the questions that should be linked according to the consonant/vowel rule above are underlined, and all of the words that actually are linked in the audio are highlighted in **green and red** too.

Example: 0:18 - The early snowfall damaged thousands of **trees across** the city, perhaps as much as half of the **trees in** Calgary.

1. 0:39 - The city says it will ask the province for disaster assistance.
2. 0:58 - It is the third phase of a new school building program, which first started rolling out in 2011.
3. 1:07 - Prentice calls this the biggest school building program in Alberta's history.
4. Story 3- Canada is starting Ebola screenings at six airports, including Calgary.
5. Story 3- - There are no direct flights to Canada from the affected countries in West Africa.
6. Story 3- - Quarantine officers at the airports are highly trained and have special equipment to detect if travelers are ill.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	OCTOBER 13 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Carla Binen and this is Learning English with CBC for the week of October 13 th .	0:00
Story 1	The City of Calgary has spent seven-million dollars dealing with last month's snowstorm. The early snowfall damaged thousands of trees across the city, perhaps as much as half of the trees in Calgary. It's now thought the work to deal with damaged trees, pruning and re-planting could take up to three years. The final costs related to the storm could reach 18-million dollars. The city says it will ask the province for disaster assistance.	0:12
Story 2	Premier Jim Prentice announced that the government will build 55 new schools and pay for 20 older schools to be upgraded. The government estimates it may cost up to two billion dollars. It is the third phase of a new school building program, which first started rolling out in 2011. Prentice calls this the biggest school building program in Alberta's history.	0:45
Story 3	Canada is starting Ebola screenings at six airports, including Calgary. Health Minister Rona Ambrose says the temperature screens are being put in place to stop the deadly virus from coming into Canada. There are no direct flights to Canada from the affected countries in west Africa. Quarantine officers at the airports are highly trained and have special equipment to detect if travelers are ill. People who are not well, or have been in contact with a sick person, are supposed to state that when they come into Canada under the Quarantine Act.	1:13

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
b	1) snowstorm	a) trim cut short
e	2) damaged	b) blizzard blast
g	3) perhaps	c) help aid
a	4) pruning	d) trouble huge mess
f	5) related	e) ruined wrecked
d	6) disaster	f) connected associated
c	7) assistance	g) maybe possibly

Listening

1. How much has Calgary already spent as a result of this snowstorm? **7 million**
2. How many trees got damaged in this snowstorm? **As many as half the trees**
3. What two things will be done to get the trees back to the way they used to be in Calgary?
Pruning the ones that are still there and re-planting new ones
4. How long will it take to restore the trees in Calgary? **Up to 3 years**
5. What will the total cost be for Calgary in relation to this storm? **18 million dollars**
6. Who will Calgary be talking to about getting disaster assistance? **The Province**

News story 2

Vocabulary

1. Now that our plan is ready, we can begin the roll out of it.
2. The queen announced the upcoming birth of her next grandchild to the people of England.
3. This looks expensive, could you give us an estimate of what the cost will be?
4. We are now on the second phase of the school building plan, and will be moving onto the third one soon.
5. Do you know the history of your country, or just what has happened recently?
6. The Premier was elected by the people of Alberta.
7. The school building program will not only be building new schools, but also upgrading some of the older ones.

Listening

1. Prentice announced that there will be _____	a) 55 new schools built b) 55 schools to be upgraded
2. The cost of this project could be up to _____	a) two million dollars b) two billion dollars
3. The government is now in the _____ of the program.	a) third phase b) third place
4. This project began _____	a) about a year ago b) three years ago
5. This school building program is _____ Alberta has ever had.	a) the biggest one b) one of the biggest ones

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
j	1. screen	a) to say something
e	2. deadly	b) going to in a straight line, or by the shortest way
f	3. virus	c) to have lots of education and experience with something
b	4. direct	d) influenced by something
d	5. affected	e) likely to cause death
h	6. quarantine	f) an extremely small and infectious agent that lives and multiplies in living things
i	7. detect	g) expected or required to do something
a	8. state (v)	h) strict isolation of people, in order to stop diseases from spreading
g	9. supposed to	i) to discover, or find something
c	10. highly trained	j) to select or reject a group by looking at it closely

Listening

1. F Canada has already started Ebola screenings at sixteen airports around the country.
2. T There will be equipment used to read peoples body temperatures.
3. T Rona Ambrose supports the use of the temperature screens.
4. F Ebola is likely to come to Canada because there are direct flights from West Africa to Canada.
5. F The Quarantine officers at the airports are still getting to know the equipment that will be used for these screenings.
6. T The Quarantine Act states that people must tell the people at the country's borders if they are feeling ill.

Language Focus

Underlined = normally, these words would be linked, but they weren't in the news cast because the speaker has slowed her speech rate on purpose.

Underlined green and red - the green shows that there is a linking with those words, the red shows which sounds are linked together.

1. 0:39 - The city says it will ask the province for **disaster assistance**.
2. 0:58 - **It is** the third **phase of a** new school building program, which first started **rolling out in** 2011.
3. 1:07 - Prentice calls this the biggest school building program in Alberta's history.
4. 1:12 - Canada is starting Ebola **screenings at** six airports, including Calgary.
5. 1:27 - There are no direct flights to Canada from the affected countries in **West Africa**.
6. 1:32 - **Quarantine officers** at the airports are highly trained and have special equipment to detect if **travelers are ill**.